CHAPTER XIX

CHINA GOES RED

A HISTORY of China during the years following the death of Dr. Sun Yat-sen does not come within the scope of this volume. Only a brief record is necessary. The Kuomintang was by no means a united Party when Dr. Sun passed away. Many of his former followers had objected to his communist affiliations, and they remained opposed to the domination of Moscow. Among those who continued to do lip-service to his memory there were also serious dissensions. Some favoured the succession to the leadership of the "elder statesmen/[1] Hu Han-min, Wang Ching-wei and Liao Chung-kai, who supported the Moscow alliance. Others, known as the "Prince Faction" supported the claims of Mr. Sun Fo, only son of Dr. Sun, to the Party leadership. Mr. Sun Fo had opposed affiliation with the communists, and had actually resigned from the position of Mayor of Canton a few weeks before the Saikuan massacre. Another faction, known as the Western Hill Conference Group, extremely conservative in its policy, would have nothing to do with communism. The Yunnanese militarists, still ganisoning Canton, also aspired to the control of the Party.

In April, 1925, the Western Hills Conference Group, numbering about 124 members, was formally expelled from the Kuomintang. The follow-